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Message Text

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72
ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-10 L-02 FAA-00 DOTE-00 CAB-01

COME-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DRC-01 /050 W
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R 141920Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6536

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1415

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRN, TD
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: STATUS OF PANAM'S AND EASTERN'S APPLICATIONS

REF: A. POS 1242; B. POS 1323; C. POS 1393

1. WHILE DISCUSSING A NUMBER OF MATTERS, INTER ALIA CIVIL AVIATION, WITH MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE ERROL MAHABIR JUNE 11 (REF C), HE TOLD ME HE HAD INSTRUCTED ALCALDE WARNER, CHAIRMAN OF THE AIR TRANSPORT LICENSING AUTHORITY (ATLA) TO BRING THE PENDING APPLICATIONS OF PANAM AND EASTERN UP FOR ATLA CONSIDERATION. MAHABIR'S STATEMENT RATHER CURIOUSLY REFLECTED A SIMILAR STATEMENT HE MADE TO AMBASSADOR MILLER (IN MY PRESENCE) IN MAY 24 (REF A). PERHAPS REALIZING THIS, MAHABIR QUICKLY ADDED THAT WARNER HAS BEEN OUT OF TOWN AND THE MINISTER HAD FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO REACH HIM.

2. WE HAVE HEARD FROM AN INFORMED SOURCE ON JUNE 14, HOWEVER, THAT ATLA DID HOLD A MEETING ON JUNE 5 (REF B), AT WHICH WARNER ANNOUNCED THAT THE TWO PENDING APPLICATIONS COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED BECAUSE OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. UPON HEARING THIS, ONE ATLA MEMBER REPORTEDLY WALKED OUT OF THE MEETING, SAYING HE WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE FURTHER IF ATLA HAS LOST ITS AUTONOMY. WARNER IS NOW TRYING TO CONVENE AN
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"EMERGENCY" MEETING OF ATLA DURING WEEK OF JUNE 17, TO CONSIDER

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HOW TO DEAL WITH THE THREATENED "WALK OUT."

3. COMMENT: UNTIL HEARING THIS REPORT ON JUNE 14, ALL WE (OR PANAM) HAD BEEN ABLE TO LEARN WAS THAT THERE APPARENTLY HAD BEEN NO DISCUSSION OF THE PENDING APPLICATIONS AT THE JUNE 5 ATLA MEETING. WE PRESUME ACCOUNT IS ACCURATE, AND THEORIZE THAT "INSTRUCTIONS FROM PM'S OFFICE" CAME FROM DODDRIDGE ALLEYNE, PERMANENT SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND ALSO CHAIRMAN OF BWIA. HE HAS CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED EASTERN'S SECOND FREQUENCY, AND ALSO HAS RECORD OF OPPOSITION TO PANAM MOVES, ALL OF WHICH HE FEARS WILL HURT BWIA'S COMPETITIVE POSITION. THIS MAY EXPLAIN ATLA INACTION WITH REGARD TO PENDING APPLICATIONS, SINCE ATLA MEMBERS DOUBTLESS FEEL THEY ARE RECEIVING CONFLICTING SIGNALS FROM TWO POWERFUL OFFICIALS (MAHABIR AND ALLEYNE), BOTH OF WHOM ARE CLOSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: GIVEN REENTRY OF DODDRIDGE ALLEYNE INTO THE SCENE, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HIGHLY USEFUL TO HAVE DEPT'S FORMAL REPLY TO PM WILLIAMS' LETTER (STATE 104784) READY FOR PRESENTATION SOON AFTER RETURN OF AMBASSADOR MILLER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, AIRLINES, AIR ROUTE APPLICATIONS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUN 1974
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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ISecure: 1
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